(d) if so, whether the above agreement envisages the deployment of Indian troops in undefined U.S. led multinational operations regardless it is authorized by the United Nations or not; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The 'New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship' signed on June 28, 2005 includes provisions for co-production of defence equipment and collaboration in multi-national operations "when it is in their common interest".

The 'Frame Work' provides for increased opportunities for a two-way defence trade and transactions, including technology transfer, collaboration, co-production, and research and development and the setting up of a 'Defence Procurement and Production Group' under the US-India Defence Policy Group (DPG) to advance these objectives. Together with progress on the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP), the 'Framework, is expected to open the way for the supply of advanced technologies, including defence technologies, to India.

The 'Framework' is expected to add the United States to our existing sources of defence equipment suppliers and increase India's options and bargaining power in the acquisition of defence technology and equipment.

There is no proposal to deploy Indian troops.

Reduction of minimum period for discharging Defence Personnel

268. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the minimum period for discharging defence personnel after ten years of their enrolment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.